

JAN 27 2004

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OFFICIAL

10761322

January 27, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Attention: Examiner Rocio Colon (expected)  
Art Unit: 2651 (expected)

Re: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD**  
U.S. Application No.: Not yet assigned  
Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/986,597  
Attorney Docket No.: 500.38183CC2

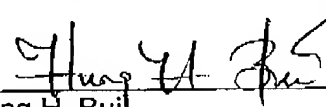
**SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Sir:

Applicants hereby submit the attached **Preliminary Amendment** (13 pgs) and  
Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 in the above-identified application.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:**

I hereby certify that the attached **Preliminary Amendment** (13 pgs) and Credit Card  
Payment Form PTO-2038 is being formally filed in the USPTO via Group 2651;  
Examiner Rocio Colon; Facsimile No. 703-872-9306 on **January 27, 2004**.

  
Hung H. Bui

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: Akihiko HIRANO et al.  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned  
Continuation of USSN 09/986,597

Filed: January 22, 2004

For: DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD

Group: 2651 (expected)

Examiner: Rocio Colon (expected)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 27, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter thereto the following Preliminary  
Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

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